

The Future of DIFAX

1/11/99
MTS

DIFAX Services

- There are two primary DIFAX Services operated by the NWS:
 - the DIFAX service of the FOS is operated for the benefit of the private sector
 - the NWS DIFAX satellite broadcast is operated for the benefit of NWS and other Government users
- Additionally, DIFAX products are available via the Internet at:
<http://weather.noaa.gov/fax/nwsfax.shtml>

DIFAX Satellite Broadcast by NWS

- Operated by the NWS via a contract with Interlink Communications Inc. (Formerly California Microwave). Master earth station located in Mountain View, CA.
- Contract with Interlink expires on September 30, 1999. NWS does **not** intend to extend contract/service beyond that date.

Government Users of NWS DIFAX Satellite Broadcast

- No longer used operationally in NWS offices
- Approximately 35 FAA user sites
- Approximately 50 DOD (Navy, Marines) user sites
- A few (5) other government users

FOS DIFAX Service

- Five Current Subscribers:
 - Alden Electronics Inc.
 - GTE Government Systems
 - Kavouras Inc.
 - Unisys Corporation
 - WSI Corporation
- Will be continued at least through 2000. Users will receive at least 6 months notice of any planned termination.

Notification Process

- Government users have recently been notified that satellite broadcast will be terminated on September 30.
- These users have been provided with names and contact points of FOS DIFAX subscribers.

Future Product Changes

- NWS is undertaking a review of all its facsimile type products and services with an eye towards providing improved products in more modern formats.